

REMARKS

1. Prior to the present Amendment and Request for Reconsideration, Claims 1-14, 18-20, and 23-30 were pending, and Claims 15-17 and 21-22 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New Claims 31-34 have been added and Claim 12 has been cancelled. Claims 1-11, 13-14, 18-20, and 23-34 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration and reexamination is requested for the claims in the present application.

2. In the Final Office Action dated September 18, 2006, Claims 1-8, 12, 13, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,315,179 issued to Hillis ("*Hillis*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,746,365 issued to Scott ("*Scott*") and U.S. Patent No. 5,653,336 issued to Buonaiuto et al. ("*Buonaiuto*"). Claims 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hillis* in view of *Scott* and *Buonaiuto* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,478,205 issued to Fujihashi ("*Fujihashi*"). Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hillis* in view of *Scott* and *Buonaiuto* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,750,652 issued to Grant ("*Grant*"). Claims 23 and 25-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Fujihashi* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,020,673 issued to Adams ("*Adams*") and *Hillis*. Finally, Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Fujihashi*, *Adams*, and *Hillis* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,713,406 issued to Drury ("*Drury*").

3. Examiner Lester Vanterpool and Examiner Nathan Newhouse graciously granted a telephonic interview on February 26, 2007, for the present application. The interview was conducted with Examiners Vanterpool and Newhouse, and with Robert W. Connors, Regis. No. 46,639, already of record for this application, and with the undersigned. Claims 1 and 23 were discussed, as were the references of record in the case. Agreement on the claims was not reached. The Examiners suggested that additional limitations be added along the lines of the limitations of Claim 23. The Examiners also suggested that this amendment be submitted with a request for reconsideration. The Examiners are thanked for their courtesy in granting the interview and for their helpfulness during the interview.

4. Claims 1, 18, 23 and 28 have been amended to incorporate limitations that have been previously examined and were in dependent claims. The claims have been amended using only terms which have previously been incorporated in the independent claims or in the dependent claims and which present no new issues that would require further consideration. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 is found at least in Claims 12 and 23 as filed, in the drawings at Figs. 5 and 12, and in the specification at paragraphs [0063] and [0064], and paragraphs [0087] to [0092]. The claim distinguishes over the prior art because none of the references, alone or in combination, teaches an adjustable strap having an opener as claimed, and also having a carrier sized to hold a person items and a cellular phone, the carrier comprising a member and at least one additional compartment, the member and the at least one other compartment each comprising a portion that opens and closes to enable insertion and removal of the personal item or the cellular phone.

Claim 18 has been amended in a similar manner, to now recite a caddy having a member and at least one other compartment on a second side of the member, wherein the member and the other compartment each further comprises a portion that opens and closes to enable insertion and removal of the personal item. Support for the amendment is found at least in Claim 23 as filed, in the drawings at Figs. 5 and 12, and in the specification as discussed above. The amendment overcomes the rejection because none of the references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a strap with a quick release mechanism and an adjustment member, and also including a caddy for holding a personal item, the caddy having a member and at least one other compartment as claimed, with the member and the at least one other compartment each having a portion that opens and closes to enable insertion and removal of the personal item.

Claims 23 and 28 have also been amended to include the limitations of Claim 12. The claims distinguish over the prior art, because the prior art does not teach or suggest the personal item carrying devices as claimed, and as discussed above. Claims 31-34 have been added to further include limitations describing the inventions of Claims 1, 18, 23 and 28. Support for the new claims is found at least in Claims 6 and 12 as filed. Claim 29 has been amended to add the limitations of Claim 3. Support for the amendment is found at least in Claim 3 as filed, in the drawings, Figs. 6-9, and in the specification at paragraphs [0074]-[0078].

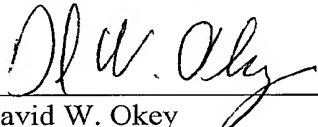
SUMMARY

5. Given the extensive amount of examination performed to this point, Applicant requests that the amendment herein be entered. Applicant also requests reconsideration of the claims for the present application and asserts that Claims 1-11, 13-14, 18-20, and 23-28 and 30-34 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to grant allowance of the present application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite the allowance of this application.

This request is being filed with a request for a three-month extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing from this filing.

Respectfully submitted,

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